--26. The method according to claim 9, wherein the strand displacement reaction of synthesizing complementary chain is carried out in the presence of a melting temperature regulator.--

--27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the melting temperature regulator is betaine.--

--28. The method according to claim 27, wherein 0.2 to 3.0 M betaine is allowed to be present in the reaction solution.--

Please amend claims 3-8, 13, 16, 19, 22, and 24 as follows:

3. (Amended) An oligonucleotide [composed of] comprising at least two regions X2 and X1c below, and X1c is linked to the 5'-side of X2,

X2: a region having a nucleotide sequence complementary to an arbitrary region X2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence, and

X1c: a region having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as in a region X1c located at the 5'-side of the region X2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid in step a) is second nucleic acid provided by the following steps:

i) the step of annealing, to a region F2c in nucleic acid serving as a template, of a region F2 in [the] an oligonucleotide [described in claim 3 wherein the region X2 is a region F2 and the region X1c is a region F1c] comprising at least two regions below, the region F2 and a region F1c linked to the 5'-side of F2,

F2: a region having a nucleotide sequence complementary to an arbitrary region F2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence, and

F1c: a region having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as in a region F1c located at the 5'-side of the region F2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence,

ii) the step of synthesizing first nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence complementary to the template wherein F2 in the oligonucleotide serves as the origin of synthesis,

iii) the step of rendering an arbitrary region in the first nucleic acid synthesized in step ii) ready for base pairing, and

iv) the step of annealing an oligonucleotide having a nucleotide sequence complementary to the region made ready for base pairing in the first nucleic acid in step iii), followed by synthesizing second nucleic acid with said oligonucleotide as the origin of synthesis and rendering F1 at the 3'-terminal thereof ready for base pairing.

A2 cont

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the region enabling base pairing in step iii) is R2c, and the oligonucleotide in step iv) is [the] an oligonucleotide [described in claim 3 wherein the region X2c is a region R2c and the region X1c is a region R1c] comprising at least two regions below, the region R2 and a region R1c linked to the 5'-side of R2,

R2: a region having a nucleotide sequence complementary to an arbitrary region R2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence, and

R1c: a region having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as in a region R1c located at the 5'-side of the region R2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein the step of rendering base pairing ready in steps iii) and iv) is conducted by the strand displacement synthesis of complementary chain by a polymerase catalyzing the strand displacement reaction of synthesizing complementary chain wherein an outer primer annealing to the 3'-side of F2c in the template and an outer primer annealing to the 3'-side of the region used as the origin of synthesis in step iv) for the first nucleic acid serve as the origin of synthesis.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim [6] 25, wherein the melting temperature of each oligonucleotide and its complementary region in the template used in the reaction is in the following relationship under the same stringency:

(outer primer/region at the 3'-side in the template) ≤ (F2c/F2 and R2c/R2) ≤ (F1c/F1 and R1c/R1).

Q2 cont

8. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 4 to 7] claim 4, wherein the nucleic acid serving as the template is RNA, and the synthesis of complementary chain in step ii) is conducted by an enzyme having a reverse transcriptase activity.

Q3

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 [or 9], wherein the strand displacement reaction of synthesizing complementary chain is carried out in the presence of a melting temperature regulator.

Q4

16. (Amended) A method of detecting a target nucleotide sequence in a sample, which comprises performing an amplification method [described in any one of claims 9 to 15] according to claim 9 and observing whether an amplification reaction product is generated or not.

Q5

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein [an] the amplification method [described in any one of claims 9 to 15] is conducted in the presence of a detector for nucleic acid, and whether an amplification reaction product is generated or not is observed on the basis of a change in the signal of the detector.

Q6

22. (Amended) The kit according to claim 21, wherein the oligonucleotide in ii) is [the] an oligonucleotide [described in claim 3] comprising at least two regions X2 and X1c below, and X1c is linked to the 5'-side of X2,

X2: a region having a nucleotide sequence complementary to an arbitrary region X2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence, and

X1c: a region having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as in a region X1c located at the 5'-side of the region X2c in nucleic acid having a specific nucleotide sequence

wherein an arbitrary region R2c in a complementary chain synthesized with the oligonucleotide in i) as the origin of synthesis is X2c, and R1c located at the 5' of R2c is X1c.

Q7

24. (Amended) A kit for detection of a target nucleotide sequence, comprising a detector for detection of a product of nucleic acid synthetic reaction additionally in a kit described in [any one of claims 21 to 23] claim 21.